HELEN'S FUNNY BABIES.

An Ethiopinn Burlesque,

IN ONE SCENE.

BY FRANK DUMONT,

**My Wife's Visitors," "The Midnight Intruder," "Making a FM."
"One Night in a Medical College," "Who's the Actor?" "The Painter's
Apprentice," "An Augul Piot," "The Noble Savage,"
"The Polar Bear," etc., etc.

AS PERFORMED BY CARNCROSS & DIXEY'S MINSTRELS, SAN FRAN CISCO MINSTRELS, BRYANT'S MINSTRELS, AND DUPREZ & BENEDICT'S MINSTRELS.

WITH THE ORIGINAL CAST OF EACH TROUPE AND DATE OF PRODUCTION.

TO WHICH ARE ADDED

A DESCRIPTION OF THE COSTUME—CASTS OF THE CHARACTERS— ENTRANCES AND EXITS—RELATIVE POSITIONS OF THE PERFORMERS ON THE STAGE, AND THE WHOLE OF THE STAGE BUSINESS.

NEW YORK: THE DE WITT PUBLISHING HOUSE,

No. 33 Rose Street.

ORIGINAL CAST OF CHARACTERS.

At Carncross and Dixey's Min-	
strels, Sept. 17, 1877.	strels, Oct. 15, 1877.
BuddleMr. E. F. DIXEY	CHARLEY BACKUS.
Toddle Mr. MATT. WHEELER	BILLY BIRCH.
Uncle Harry Mr. GEO. FROTHINGHAM	BOB HART.
Doctor Ounce Mr. E. A. WESLYN	H. W. FRILLMAN.
Sniffle Mr. Jas. Griffin	GEORGE POWERS.
Perkins Mr. J. RICE	CHAS. GIBBONS.
At Bryant's Minstrels,	Duprez & Benedict's Min-
At Bryant's Minstrels, Oct. 15, 1877.	Duprez & Benedict's Min- strels, Sept. 17, 1877.
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Oct. 15, 1877. Buddle	strets, Sept. 17, 1877 Mr. John Harris Mr. Archie White Mr. J. T. Gulick Mr. Frank Dumont.

TIME IN REPRESENTATION-TWENTY MINUTES.

SCENE.-A plain chamber.

COSTUMES.

BUDDLE.—Waist, trousers, cap, etc.
TODDLE.—Make-up as a fat boy.
HARRY.—Vest, pants, dressing-gown, and cap.
DOCTOR OUNCE.—Business suit and spectacles.
SNIFFLE.—Genteel dress.
PERKINS.—Genteel dress.

PROPERTIES.

Small bell, table, chair, an orange, small flask; stuffed rat, tail to be pulled off; plate, with piece of pie; spoonful of flour, glass of water, bottle, two glasses of ale; large tin pump, with stout wire handle, to work from exterior of pump; several cats, alive, and placed within the pump, lid on pump to open; medicine case, with several small bottles.

HELEN'S FUNNY BABIES.

SCENE.—Plain chamber. Table with tablecloth. Small bell.

HARRY discovered seated at table. Wears dressing gown and cap.

HARRY. Confound those imps. Everything is destroyed, and the house is fast becoming a wreck. I've been sick just one week, and during that time they have ruined everything of value. Helen sent the babies here to wait on me, and I have to wait on myself at all times. (rings bell) Buddle! Toddle! where are you? Buddle! Toddle!

Enter Buddle, R. 1 R., holding behind him a stuffed rat in one hand, and its tail in the other. He is weeping and bawling.

Stop that infernal noise! Do you hear me? (Buddle weeps louder) Stop! stop! You'll drive me mad! Where have you been?

BUDDLE (crying). I was down in the barn playing Jonah and the

whale, and an accident happened to Jonah. Oh! oh!

HARRY. Down in the barn playing Jonah and the whale, eh? Where's Jonah?

BUDDLE. There he is! (shows the rat, and bawls very loud.)
HARRY. Stop your noise. What accident happened to Jonah?

BUDDLE. I was playing with Jonah, and I pulled poor Jonah's tail off. (shows tail of rat.)

HARRY. Throw it out; it's a nasty rat.

BUDDLE (80b8). 'Taint a rat, Uncle Harry; it's Jonah.

HARRY. Throw it out, I tell you!

BUDDLE. The whale might come along and swallow him.

HARRY (raises cane). Throw that rat out or I'll break your back. (BUDDLE cries, and throws out rat and tail, R. 1 E.) Now, sir, how long have I got to ring this bell?

BUDDLE. It's your bell. You can ring it just as long as you like.

HARRY. Did you hear this bell ring?

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BUDDLE. Yes, sir. I thought dinner was ready, and I run all the way. HARRY. You thought dinner was ready? Where have you been all the morning?

BUDDLE. You ought to see the goat me and Toddle's got. Oh! he's a bully goat. We've got him fighting with your chickens, and the goat killed seventeen of 'em. Ha! ha! ha!

HARRY. Killed seventeen of my spring chickens?

Buddle (joyfully). Yes, sir. Knocked 'em all to pieces.

HARRY. You villain! you rascal! You let that goat kill my chickens,
did you? (raises cane) I'll warm your jacket, you villain!

BUDDLE. 'Twasn't me, Uncle Harry. The goat done it. I couldn't help it. (cries.)

HARRY. Wait until I get stronger. I'll pay you for this. BUDDLE (crying). I know something about Toddle.

HARRY. What do you know about Toddle?

BUDDLE. You know that nice gold watch of yours?

HARRY. Yes. What about my gold watch? BUDDLE. Toddle took a hammer and mashed it all up.

HARRY. Mashed my gold watch? What for?

BUDDLE (laughs). He wanted to see the wheels go round.

HARRY. I'll let him see the wheels go round when I catch him.

BUDDLE. Oh, he's a bad boy, aint he? HARRY. I'll fix you both! Wait until I grow stronger. Killed my chickens-smashed my watch! What next? Where's Toddle?

BUDDLE. He was down in the river swimming, and I took his clothes and hid 'em. He can't find 'em, so he can't come home. Ha! ha! ha! HARRY. You hid his clothes, did you? now go and get his clothes for

him. Gather up my dead chickens-

BUDDLE. There aint nothing left of 'em but a few feathers!

HARRY. Go and do as I tell you! Send that goat away instantly and should any of the neighbors call with jellies, cakes or other delicacies, send them away, I don't want them; for they expect me to repay these favors. If the Doctor calls say I feel better. I'm going to my room. (removes gown and cap) As soon as I am well I will attend to you with this cane. (going towards L. 1 E. He turns and catches Buddle laughing. Buddle pretends to cry, but laughs as soon as HAR-RY turns his back. Business ad lib.) [HARRY Exits, L. 1 E.

BUDDLE. I ain't going to tell the neighbors to take away the pies, jellies and delicacies-no, sir. I'll put on Uncle Harry's dressing gown and cap, and get all them nice things myself. (puts on gown and cap.

TODDLE heard crying, R. 1 E. BUDDLE rings the bell.)

TODDLE enters R. 1 E.

TODDLE. Uncle Harry! boo! boo!

BUDDLE (in gruff voice). Where have you been?

TODDLE. I was down in swimming, and Buddle hid my clothes so I

couldn't get home, and you'd scold me;
BUDDLE. That Buddle is a bad boy. Go and get me a glass of ale! (Toddle exits any returns with glass of ale. Buddle drinks it. Go and . get me another glass. As Toddle exits he turns and discovers it is Buddle. He enters with glass of ale—Buddle reaches for it.)

Toddle. Here's my regards. (drinks.)

BUDDLE. What do you mean, sir? Drinking my ale?
TODDLE. You think you're smart, don't you? I'm going to tell Uncle Harry that you've got his clothes on. (starts R. H.)

BUDDLE (catches him). Hold up! Don't tell Uncle Harry! TODDLE. Yes, I will. You can't fool me.

BUDDLE. Look here! the neighbors brings in lots of delicacies for Uncle Harry, and he's sick and can't eat 'em; now I'll sit here and pretend I'm uncle and we'll get all the good things, and I'll give you half!

TODDLE. All right. Mind, I get half.

BUDDLE. Yes. (sits at table, Toddle fans him. Knock at door.)

Enter Sniffle, R. 1 E.

SNIFF. How is your Uncle Harry this morning?

TODDLE. He's very feverish. He imagines every one is bringing him something nice to eat. (Buddle groans.)

SNIFF. I brought a nice orange for him; here it is. (BUDDLE grabs for

it, but Toddle secures it and commences to peel it.)

TODDLE (to BUDDLE). Be quiet—you're sick!
BUDDLE. Give me that orange. (makes attempts to get it without allow-

ing Sniffle to discover him.)

TODDLE (to SNIFFLE). He's got fever! and the best thing for fever is an orange—not the inside of an orange. It's only the peeling that's good for fever. (give peel to Buddle, who wakes a wry face and eats peel, while Toddle devours the orange. Buddle tries hard to get at Toddle)

SNIFF. I also brought some of my imported port wine. (shows flask. Buddle attempts to get it, but Toddle grabs it, and, turning his back

to SNIFFLE he arinks the contents of flask.)
TODDLE. Port wine is bully for fever.

SNIFF. I'll bid you good morning, and call again to night.

[Exits, R. 1 E.

BUDDLE (jumps up—catches Toddle). Say, how is this! I do the groaning, and get sick with the fever, and what do I get?

TODDLE. Didn't I give you the peel? Now, the next comes in is

yours?

BUDDLE. All right. (sits at table.)

TODDLE. Be sick! be sick! (knocks at door. Enter Perkins, with piece of pie on a plate.)

PERKINS. How is your uncle this morning?

TODDLE. He's away out of his head. He thinks there's been nice things for him to eat, and he imagines that he sees oranges.

PERKINS. Perhaps this pie would not be good for him. (going.)

TODDLE. Yes, it would. He can eat pie. (Buddle makes an effort to get the pie, but Toddle gets the pie, leaving the plate in Buddle's hands. Toddle, with his backturned to Perkins, devours the pie, while Buddle frantically endeavors to get some of it.)

BUDDLE (aside to TODDLE). Give me some of that pie, you hog!

TODDLE. Shut up—you're sick! (to Perkins) What kind of pie is this?

PERKINS. Prune pie.

TODDLE. Well, a prune wouldn't hurt him. (gives small piece of pie to BUDDLE.)

BUDDLE. I don't want to eat the pits. I want some of the pie. Perkins. I'll call in by-and-by, and bring in some nice custard.

[Exit, R. 1 E.

Buddle (leaps up and grasps Toddle). Here! this is played out. I had to do all the sick business, and you've been eating.

TODDLE (mouth full of pie). Sick people oughn't to eat; but the next

comes in is yours.

ter with him?

BUDDLE. You bet I'll get the next comes in. (sits at table as Doctor Ounce, with medicine-case, enters, r. 1 E. Buddle groans very loud.)

Doctor. So my patient is worse, is he? What seems to be the mat-

Toddle. He's got cramps.

DOCTOR. Then I'll have to prescribe camphor; but, should the cramps grow more violent, we'll give him a big glassful of whiskey. (Buddle begins to groan and shout, "I'm worse," etc; rolls and kicks in his chair. Perkins and Sniffle enter, R. 1 E.)

DOCTOR. Whiskey will do him no good. I must give him some chol-

era mixture. (opens case, selects a bottle.)

Buddle. I don't want any. I'm better!

Sniff. and Perkins. Take the medicine. (Doctor forces bottle to BUDDLE'S lips and comes to c.; opens case, starts; call's Toddle, Snif-

FLE. and PERKINS to him.)

DOCTOR. Don't say a word. I've made a terrible mistake. Instead of giving him cholera mixture I've given him a deadly poison called oil of catnip, and enough to kill twenty men. For Heaven's sake, fly for an antidote! (Doctor, Toddle, Sniffle, and Perkins rush off, R: 1 E.)

BUDDLE. They're going after the whiskey. (HARRY heard calling

"TODDLE!" "BUDDLE!" and heard coming, L. 1 E.)

BUDDLE. I don't want Uncle Harry to catch me with his clothes on. (takes off gown and cap, and hides under table as HARRY enters, L. 1 E. HARRY (puts on gown and cap). What's all this scampering all over

the house mean? (Toddle rushes on, R., with glass of water.)

TODDLE. I couldn't get the nanny-goat; but here's some boiling hot water. (dashes glass of water over HARRY'S face. Sniffle rushes on with bottle, forces it to HARRY'S mouth. PERKINS rushes on with spoonful of flour-dashes it into HARRY'S face. Doctor rushes on with large tin pump.)

HARRY (starts up). What do you mean, you lunatics?

DOCTOR. I've given you oil of catnip instead of cholera mixture. You're a dead man! (Buddle rolls out from under table) You're poi-

BUDDLE. 'Twas me took the oil of catnip.

DOCTOR. Quick! Use the pump! (BUDDLE lies upon his back. Doc-TOR, placing end of pump to his mouth, pumps away, all the rest shouting, etc. Doctor opens lid of pump, and empties several cats or kittens out of the hollow pump.)

CURTAIN.

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